

time and experience to impress himself on the brain and conscience of the country, while the party was still, as in '96, a house divided against itself. In 1908 the democracy will go into the fight under the same leader, time-tried and fire-tested; a leader whom all the world respects and of whom all Americans are proud; a leader with stainless record and of unimpeachable greatness. It will enter the campaign with principles and policies which, like its leader, have stood the test of fire and acid and emerged pure gold. It will enter the campaign strengthened and inspired by unity where before

it was cursed by dissension. Who shall say that these changed conditions will not contribute toward a different and glorious result?

Lincoln, Neb., Journal (rep.)—There is nothing new or surprising in the announcement, but it is put in so dignified and felicitous a way that it will give keen unhappiness to his opponents within his own party.

Kansas City Post (dem.)—Mr. Bryan has felt it his duty to announce that he is willing to assume the responsibility and this announcement will be gratifying to multiplied thousands of his friends who believe that he can be elected and that if elected will restore the old time glory and dignity to the office of the American presidency.

O. O. Stealy in Louisville Courier-Journal.—For twelve years Mr. Bryan has been of the strong opinion that the people would vote the democratic party in power, in spite of the wealthy and favored classes. After the election in 1900 he told your correspondent that he or the party would finally win, in defiance of the money power. I tried to get him to set a date, but did not succeed, though he did say that it might be in 1908, 1912, or 1916. "Great heavens!" said I, "you do not expect us old democrats to wait that long for a victory?" "Yes; in a just cause you can spend a lifetime," was his reply. This is Mr. Bryan. He is a good man and a true man, but a theorist and a dreamer, with no practical ideas. That he would lead the democratic party to defeat year in and year out as long as he lives, hoping that his views upon how the government should be run in the interests of the whole people would finally triumph, there is not a doubt in the world. That he is as honest as he is sincere is as true as gospel, and if elected he would make a good and a great president for the people of the whole country, all who know him well believe. If he did anything to disturb the legitimate business interests of the country he would not rant from the housetops, as does the present occupant of the White House. Whatever he did would be done decently and orderly, and without any highfaluten and egotistical parade. He goes off now occasionally on issues of his own of rather doubtful tendency, that have no part or parcel with the democratic faith as taught by Jefferson, Jackson and Tilden, but if president, it is believed that he would sit steady in the democratic boat.

Philadelphia Public Ledger (rep.)—Mr. Bryan's declaration that he will not refuse the democratic nomination is couched in terms deserving some recognition on the ground of temperance and good taste. Allowing the merit to be nothing but the skill of the practiced speaker, it is still a merit of minor degree. It also accentuates the probability that Bryan has enough strength in his party and enough adroitness of management to obtain the nomination. The fact is patent that there is as yet no serious rival. The announcement that he is willing and the probability that willingness means nomination will drive men of thoughtfulness and responsibility, men commonly classed as "conservative," to serious thought upon organized means to avert the risk of worse and worse experiments with the country's business. * * * It seems a simple political calculation that the way to make certain a republican victory is to nominate against him a man whose sense of obligation to high office is known and whose ability has been proved. Business men are fairly uniform in their views

in a time like the present. The dry goods merchant or owner of a general store in the smallest village agrees with the city banker that confidence must be restored. Before there is a complete restoration of business confidence people must believe that the federal government is not going to try a series of drastic theories on the commercial life of the masses who labor for a livelihood. The man for the hour is the man who can be trusted. Will the

republican party see the drift of conviction among the people?

Columbus (Ohio) Press-Post—Mr. Bryan's statement leaves an open and fair field for the consideration of any other man in the democratic party who may be considered available. He simply makes it plain that he will accept the nomination if it is conferred on him as any other sensible man would who is devoted to the party and the nation.

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